

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:547

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007

SRAVANA SAKA KONARK AND PURI TEMPLES .SHRI ARJUN SETHI

Oram Shri Jua;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ASI has decided to remove the sand filled in the interior of the world famous Konark Temple in Orissa for its protection;
- (b) if so, the damages, if any, likely to happen to the temple;
- (c) whether the Government has also decided to renovate the Sun Temple, Konark and Jagannath Temple, Puri in Orissa;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the amount likely to be spent for this purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b) At present, there is no decision to remove the sand filled inside the Jagmohana of Sun Temple, Konark, Orissa.

(c)&(d) In addition to day to day maintenance, a long term conservation strategy to strengthen the Jagmohana of Sun Temple, including chemical preservation and environmental development, based on requisite investigation, analysis and design of compatible intervention, is under active consideration. This will also include measures to contain the effect of seismic forces. A decision has also been taken to deplaster the Jagmohana of Jagannath Temple at Puri, under the supervision of a technical committee which has been constituted to examine all issues related to the conservation of this protected monument.

(e) The details of the funds earmarked for conservation, preservation and environmental development, in the current financial year for these monuments are as under :

Sl. No. Temples	Funds Earmarked for		
	Structural Conservation	Chemical Preservation	Environmental Development
1. Sun Temple, Konark	52.49 lakhs	7.50 lakhs	6.00 lakhs
2. Jagannath Temple, Puri	22.75 lakhs	8.00 lakhs	3.00 lakhs